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211499

1. Italian Embassy yesterday delivered Santini's reply to Meadows' letter of December 2. In reply, Santini indicates he is available for talks with Meadows any time after January 7, but makes no reference to proposal for continuing exchange of correspondence. In subsequent conversation with Ambassador Ortona, Meadows said he could not comment on substance of Santini's reply until it had been translated and studied. Ortona's impression is that Santini wants informal talks with Meadows in January which if successful could lead immediately to formal negotiations. Meadows replied that he hoped correspondence would obviate need for further round of informal talks, but said he personally would be available

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CLEARANCES:

E/OA - Mr. Meadows (draft)
E/AN - Mr. Rodriguez (draft)
CAB - Mr. Scibilia (subst
DOT - Mr. Binder (~~substance~~ info)

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from January 19 - February 1, if another round of informal talks is needed, but pointed out the numerous agency and industry interests involved. (FYI: Possible dates not yet coordinated and cleared with other agencies. END FYI) Meadows said in view his commitments for other negotiations, he saw no possibility of formal negotiations resuming before late February. He would in any event respond to Santini's letter as soon as possible.

2. Copy of Santini's reply being pouched today.

END

ROGERS

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